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Up to the American People.

The return of the American railway
system to private management was
greeted with nothing less than a
national burst of rejoicing. It is an
incontrovertible fact that this
country ought to have the best rail-
way service in the world, as it once
did have. American business judgment,
practical experience and horse
sense reached the conviction months
ago that Government railroading was a
hopeless proposition. So the Ameri-
can people were ready, eager and de-
termined to get the operation of the
carriers out of the hands of the Govern-
ment.

But practical railroad men charged
with the responsibility of restoring
the morale of the workers, improving
the quality of the service and re-
establishing the credit of the roads do
not, and the general public should
not, ignore the very serious condition
of the carriers now that they are out
of the hands of the Government.

The public is paying directly in in-
creased traffic charges two billions of
dollars a year more in round num-
bers than it was paying a little while
ago for transportation. But the pay-
rolls of the roads are up hundreds of
millions and their other operating ex-
penses are up still other hundreds of
millions beyond the increased gross
receipts represented by that two bil-
lions of dollars of increased traffic
charges. The increased costs, in
plain English, are up far above the
limit of financial safety.

If the railroads under Government
operation had not been drafting hun-
dreds of millions out of the United
States Treasury in addition to the
prodigiously increased operating re-
venues the country would have been
strewn with the wrecks of bankrupt
carriers far and wide. Back to pri-
vate management, the roads as a
whole face financial ruin unless they
get on a solid business basis.

A solid business basis for the Ameri-
can railway system means first of
all traffic rates that will enable them
to make both ends meet. But it
means more than merely piling rate
increase upon rate increase. It means
a square deal from the public to
the railroads and a square deal
from the railroads to the public. It
means giving adequate service for
adequate rates. It means at the
same time giving an honest day's pay
to the railway employees and getting
an honest day's work out of them.
All this depends on public opinion
and public support.

The railroads cannot build them-
selves up again without the backing
of the public. But the genius of
America can work out the problem
with the earnest cooperation of the
American people.

A Bad Week for Revolutionists.

Taking it all in all last week was
a bad one for revolutionists of various
tints, from the pale rose of the draw-
ing room anarchists to the carmine
of the I. W. W. variety. The "cause"
did not get along anywhere. In fact
there were indications here and
abroad of the growing unpopularity
of its advocates.

Candidates seeking the nomination
for President from each of the two
great parties became very frank on
the subject of the domiciled but un-
naturalized or naturalized but un-
Americanized foes of our institutions.
The Attorney-General of the United
States announced with grim assur-
ance that the Soviet arks would make
many trips with full cabins from a
country which had made up its mind
at last that it was the nation's duty
to itself to put safety before hospi-
tality. General Pershing expressed
his opinion about a certain type
when he said that those who would
not learn the language of the land
were not fit to live in it.

Things went badly for the extreme
left in France. The great railroad
strike failed to paralyze business right
across, as those responsible for it had
predicted that it would do. The news-
papers pointed out that the open
use of revolution and the proposal
of the country under a dictator-
ship of workmen's syndicates had ex-
posed the patience of the public.

and they called upon all good citizens
to support the Government, which
seemed to be growing stronger every
day. The failure of the strike leaders
to starve the nation must have af-
fected the temper of the members of
the National Socialist Congress at
Strasbourg, for at the opening session
the comrades greeted each other as
"dirty beasts."

In Great Britain the Labor-Socialist
party was depressed by the wide-
spread demonstration of satisfaction
over the return of Mr. Asquith to the
House of Commons. Persons who had
looked forward with dread to the pos-
sibility of seeing David Lloyd George
succeeded by ARTHUR HENDERSON on
a platform of "nationalized every-
thing" took heart at the indications
that the Liberal party might get back
to power, stop the coalition riot of ex-
travagance and enable the nation to pay
its debts.

As for Russia, the depressing thing
about that country, from the point of
view of revolutionists in other parts
of the world, was that the firm of
LENIN and TROTSKY had begun to
show indications of a desire to be ac-
cepted in reputable business circles as
persons who could be trusted.

Secretary Lane's Valediction.

Read between the lines, the valedic-
tion of FRANKLIN K. LANE ex-
plains why he was a good Secretary
of the Interior. He was fond of his
work. His letter to the President is
not a picture of his own record but
an attempt to show the people what a
great department that of the Interior
is and how much greater it
may become. Mr. LANE, regretting that
the Interior Department appears to
be only "an abiding place for a group
of unrelated governmental agencies,"
hastens to plead that "it is the most
distinctly American of all the depart-
ments."

Mr. LANE's peculiar view of the
Secretary of the Interior has come
from his power of reducing large, ab-
stract, uninviting propositions to
small and diverting units. He has
been interested in "a harrel of oil, a
mountain canyon, the flow of a river
or the capacity of the humblest of
men." He has the pioneer type of
mind. Alaska, American forests, oil
and ore fields, all have been lively
objects of his interest.

The national capital will remember
LANE, if for nothing else, for his in-
dictment of it. "Washington," he
says, "is a combination of political
caucus, drawing room and civil ser-
vice bureau." It is honest and means
well, but is poorly organized. It is
natural that a Secretary of the Interior,
enthusiastic over his work,
should feel that way. It irks him be-
cause, when he sees a thing to be
done, the machinery delays the doing.
LANE, always willing to take
responsibility—even for a hand in
those Cabinet meetings—is vexed by
men who keep the buck going around
the table.

"Every one seems to be afraid of
every one. The self-protective sense
is developed abnormally, the creative
sense atrophies. Trust, confidence,
enthusiasm—these simple virtues
of all great business are the ones
most lacking in Government
organization."

This is all true. Red tape and lit-
tle tyrants have had their effect. To
say that the same evils exist in all
governments long established is not
a complete excuse. The only remedy
is better men in office; men who,
trusting others; men who have
the courage to say necessary things
bluntly, as LANE has done.

Lawsuits to Prevent Litigation.

By far the most interesting and
important reform recommended to the
Legislature by the New York State
Bar Association at its recent meet-
ing in this city is the enactment of a
measure to permit our courts to en-
tertain jurisdiction of lawsuits to pre-
vent future litigation. These cases
are known as suits for declaratory
relief. The plaintiff comes into court
with the contract he has made with
the defendant; questions have arisen
in regard to the rights and duties of
the respective parties thereunder; he
asks the judge to consider their con-
flicting views and render a judgment
answering these questions and declar-
ing just what each party is lawfully
bound to do under the agreement. The
complaint is really a request for judi-
cial guidance to avoid the commission
of errors which might result in serious
loss. If the judge can tell the
parties to the contract what their
rights and duties are now a suit for
heavy damages in the future may be
avoided.

Such jurisdiction is now exercised
by the courts in England, where these
suits for declaratory relief have in-
creased in number and importance
since the outbreak of the great war in
1914. The Bulletin of the American
Judicature Society for 1919 says that
the first volume of the King's Bench
reports for 1916 "reveals a large num-
ber of cases in which the power to
make a declaration was most benefi-
cially exercised." We do not find a
large number of such cases in that
volume, but it contains reports of
three cases which aptly illustrate the
procedure thus commended.

The first of these cases arose un-
der a charter party providing for the
hire of a steamship to be employed in
voyages "between safe ports" situated
between latitude 80 degrees north and
50 degrees south. The plaintiffs asked
for a judgment declaring that in Feb-
ruary, 1915, Newcastle-upon-Tyne was
not a safe port within the meaning of
this charter party. On the 11th day
of that month the Imperial German Gov-
ernment had proclaimed the waters
around Great Britain and Ireland to be
a military area within which every
hostile merchant vessel would be
destroyed. Notwithstanding this pro-
clamation the defendants ordered the
steamer to proceed to Newcastle,
which was within the proscribed zone.
The plaintiffs protested on the ground
that Newcastle had become an un-
safe port on account of the danger of
access; but the vessel made the voyage
in safety. While holding that the
perils surrounding the approach to a
port might render it unsafe, the court
refused to declare that the German
proclamation of a blockade had any
such effect on Newcastle.

The second case also related to a
charter party, which contained a pro-
vision that it should be cancelled if
the vessel was commandeered by the
Greek Government. While the ship
was at Marseilles the captain re-
ceived an order from the Greek Gov-
ernment to proceed to the Pireus for
the purpose of placing the vessel at the
disposal of the Government. The order
was withdrawn before the ship
left Marseilles, but the court neverthe-
less held that she had been commandeered
and therefore declared the char-
ter party to have been cancelled.

The third of the suits for declara-
tory relief which we have mentioned
involved an extensive contract by a
British mining corporation to furnish
large quantities of Australian zinc to
a business concern in Germany. The
mining company prayed for and ob-
tained a judgment declaring that the
contract had been abrogated by the
outbreak and continuance of a state
of war between Great Britain and
Germany, inasmuch as trading with
an alien enemy was unlawful and the
end of the war could not be pre-
dicted with any certainty.

In the circular of the New York
State Bar Association addressed to the
Governor, the Legislature and the
press it is stated that this form of
remedial justice is said to have been
derived from Scotland. It is obvi-
ously an advantage to business men
in such cases as those we have de-
scribed to have their rights and ob-
ligations judicially ascertained as soon
as possible after they are called in
question; and this system of declara-
tory judgments appears to have
worked so well in England as to justify
the recommendation that it be
introduced into the jurisprudence of
New York.

War Department Transportation
Experiments.

The news from Washington printed
yesterday included the subjoined mys-
tifying announcement:

"Development of water transporta-
tion, instituted by the Railroad Ad-
ministration, is to be continued un-
der direction of the War Depart-
ment."

"This includes the operation of
barges and towboats on the Missis-
sippi River between St. Louis and
New Orleans, between the Alabama
coal fields and the Gulf of Mexico,
on the Warrior River project, on the
Delaware and Raritan Canal."

"These waterway systems are re-
garded by Director-General Hines
as representing a 'mere beginning,'
and in relinquishing control of them
he advocates a continuation of the
development in order that a practi-
cable test may be made of utilizing
the nation's inland waterways."

If the War Department is going to
run barges on the Mississippi, the
Warrior, the Barge Canal and the
Delaware and Raritan Canal, under
what regulations and restrictions is
the service to be maintained?

Are the War Department boats to
compete with privately owned and
managed boats, or are they to engage
exclusively in Government work?

Is the War Department to engage
in a purely commercial enterprise, or
is it going to confine its activities to
the army work and public improve-
ments which fall within its field?

Democracy Stirring in Japan.

When YUKIO OKAZAKI, author of "The
Voice of Japanese Democracy," a bril-
liant orator and the unsleeping en-
emy of clan government, however
veiled under high sounding party
names, was in New York last winter
to study the politics of labor he was
interviewed by a representative of
THE SUN. It was known that this
publicist of fiery energy and pitiless
logic, the virtual destroyer of the
Teruchi Cabinet, was the adroit and
relentless champion of democracy,
even to granting manhood suffrage
speedily in a land supposed to be the
stronghold of theocratic imperialism.
Banishment in 1887, imprisonment
and imminent danger to life in twice
confronting armed assassins had alike
failed to move this student of repre-
sentative institutions from his purpose.
He believed his experiences
would work in Japan for good.

When, therefore, asked whether he
was cheered because of the accession
to power of the Haru Ministry after
the rise and fall of the Teruchi
Cabinet, he surprised his questioner
by that look—so well
known to those accustomed to scruti-
nize the supposed inscrutable Japa-
nese face—which even in silence
thunders out a negative. That look
declared that his darling hope of
manhood suffrage would never be ful-
filled in a mere triumph of any party
as thus organized.

Underneath the rather ostentatious
names of parties which are only as-
terisks of the old exploded sun of the
feudal system and which even with
a literal translation can have little
meaning to aliens is the pressing
conviction that too many things
should not be attempted at once.
Facing the Premier, Mr. HARA, is the

fact that, only two years ago, suffrage
was so far extended as to reach all
who paid three yen—\$150—in direct
taxes. But this law has not been as
yet tested in practice.

To extend further the suffrage at
such a time, especially since one party
hitherto supporting the Government
has been almost won over by Mr.
OKAZAKI's arguments, might precipitate
a crash, so the Premier dissolved the
Diet, to save his Cabinet indeed, but
honestly to try first what is as yet
untested. Perhaps he has drawn a
lesson from America's experience
with the evils of an overplus of un-
digested legislation.

Premier HARA's true job is to unload
from the nation's back the incubus of
the Germanism which, since about 1880,
has nearly ruined Japan and to wipe
out what is a consequence of it—the
memory of outrages in Korea and the
unjustified aggressions upon China.
All the things which have alienated
sympathy from Japan are the unwel-
come legacies of that militarism
which has dehaunched education, neu-
tralized the Constitution of 1889 and
made Japan a mark of suspicion and
even hatred abroad. No statesman
ever went more honestly to his task
than HARA; so, at least, the cool for-
eigner thinks, despite the criticisms of
radicals like Mr. OKAZAKI. Evidently
the Premier calls on Japan if not to halt
at least to mark time while the great
novelty of enlarged suffrage is ex-
perimented upon in the coming elec-
tion.

Unpartisan Americans familiar
with the situation have long noticed
this undeniable fact, often commented
upon by native statesmen and critics
and puzzling to Europeans: The
Japanese students educated in Eu-
rope almost invariably return as radi-
cals. They wish to Germanize, Ital-
ianize, Frenchify or Anglicize their
country at once. On the contrary,
Japanese young men trained in Ameri-
can schools go back sobered and
with their minds tending to construc-
tive conservatism. They have seen
and realized that though in theory
democracy is very simple, yet in prac-
tice its very complexity tests, while it
draws forth the finest and best of
human energies.

From 1850 to 1880 Japan followed
largely the ideals and often the di-
rect advice of TOWNSEND HARRIS
and of those pioneer educators and
that small group of American mis-
sionaries who had the whole country
from 1850 to 1875.

When the Government, that is, the
Elder Statesmen and the nobility
supported by the toll of the masses,
deliberately adopted the German the-
ory and practice Japan was set as
an obstacle in the direct path of the
world's progress. We venture to be-
lieve that had not the American spirit
and forms been eliminated to make
place for German methods Japan's
problems, met with a finer intelli-
gence, would have been simpler.

Yet whether it be men of the
HARA or the OKAZAKI type that Japan
is to be set in harmony with the best
civilization and thus to win the praise
of humanity, Americans cannot but
watch the process with the deepest
interest and sincerest sympathy.

March came in like a lamb, but Mr.
ARNSTEIN didn't.

Was any Jerseyman, going home
last night with the Supreme Court's
decision, too happy to growl over the
eight cent tube fare?

If Senator PHILAN has private sub-
marine or wireless facilities for receiv-
ing communications from Hawaii there
is an explanation which will much re-
lieve the minds of his friends as to his
statements about affairs in the islands.
Otherwise nothing less searching than
a Senatorial investigation committee
can solve the mystery. He has stated
that the Japanese labor situation
there gives cause for keen alarm; the
planters reply that Japanese labor
"remains quiet." He announced that
a Japanese warship was in Hawaiian
waters. Honolulu says that no such
warship has been sighted. The Dis-
trict of Columbia is legally dry and
no more law abiding Senator than Mr.
PHILAN ever adorned and typified Cal-
ifornia, nor he known to play upon
the cuffs board.

Edwin C. DRUMMOND's official desig-
nation in his Washington activities on
behalf of prohibition has been and will
continue, it is reported, in his labors
for the Sociologist Congress to be
"legislative superintendent." Polite
and euphemistic as it is to name one
skilled and industrious in an occupa-
tion sometimes described in legislative
halls as lobbying, it lacks a degree
of elegance of which designation by
which a very efficient agent widely
acquainted with Congressmen a gen-
eration ago preferred to be known:
"avertor of unfriendly legislation."

And, indeed, during his employment
his clients suffered little from legisla-
tion of which the most sensitive share-
holder could justly complain.

Victor HUGO's grandson has com-
plained successfully that the memory
of his grandfather was insulted when
the French Senate allowed Joseph
Cauter to sit in the chair of the poet
at his trial. The only way to prevent
the seats of the mighty from being
desecrated in this fashion is to allow
famous men to take their arm chairs
home with them when they go out of
office, as is the custom in the case of
our Cabinet officers.

Vanishing Values.

The thing we call a copper
is innumerable proper.
But it sure has come a crepper.
In the shop:
And the nicking way is broken
As a monetary token.
And in fact the die is spoken
Of as sleep.

So in course of time the holder
That is put up by the dollar
Will sink far below the collar
That it wears;

And aye, and aye, and aye, and aye,
Will be filled full, for a fact, with—
Or in other words be cracked with—
Millions.

Abilities of an Executive.

Disability.
Inability.
Incompetence.

Matthew Moore.

ENEMIES OF THE BIRDS.

Cats Are Defended and Screech Owls
Are Accused.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
In twenty years study of bird life at
close range I have never found but
three birds actually by a cat,
killed, on my own or on neighbor-
ing farms, and I have seen my cats
lying asleep under a nest of young
birds in a bush only four feet over their
heads and they never molested one.
Birds are too watchful and roost high
at night.

On the other hand the real slayer of
birds is the little screech owl that
flies at night, no matter how dark,
seen from the roof trying
vainly to reach the perch in the nest
under the eaves, and so bold and per-
sistent that they had to be shot. They
tear off the wings and pluck off the
feathers and the cat gets the blame.

Even the big barn owl does the same,
while every crow spends all his waking
hours hunting for the eggs and young
of all song birds, which he greedily de-
vours. He has been caught red handed
at it.

Again, if bird lovers could see the
vast amount of grain and fruit in the
South destroyed by flocks of birds he
would be reconciled to a few less. One
man lost his entire grape crop of sev-
eral acres by birds alone.

This foolish war on cats by brutal
people who hate them and uninformed
scientists has resulted in field mice,
chipmunks and rats multiplying by thou-
sands, which have destroyed thousands
of dollars worth of crops every year.
When I had four cats that roamed the
fields at will at all hours not a ground
squirrel or field mouse dared show its
head, but since mean neighbors and
cruel town hunters have wiped them
out the field mice and chipmunks almost
ruined my corn field and potato crop,
not to speak of the pastures, for two
years in succession.

Again, why do the doctors and sci-
entists war against the cat as a carrier
of disease germs, yet ignore the pet dog?
The cat is cleanly by nature, but no dog
is. Also, there is no foe to all birds
that are in or fall out of nests so re-
lentless as the dog, especially the bird
dogs of the city sportsman.

The field mice and rats, which roam
the fields and woods at all hours, and
the low built nests of ground spar-
rows and bobwhites they can climb up
to. Yet the cat gets the blame.

In the interests of agriculture I would
say feed your cats and pass stringent
laws against any one killing, neglect-
ing, deserting or abusing them in any
way, or the day will come when all the
crops from the hungry hordes of field
mice, rats and chipmunks.
Don't denounce the cat for the crimes
of the dogs, the crows and the ever
hungry screech owls.

CLIFFORD E. DAVIS.
CUMBERLAND, Md., March 1.

Cats and Birds Together in a Garden.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
I live in the country and have a num-
ber of pet cats. Our garden is always
full of birds and they are fed here regu-
larly in the winter months. Our cats
never molest them and I never remem-
ber one bird killed or plucked found
in evidence.

One hungry animal may at times prey
on another. The cat should be fed, is
domestic, has no home but your home,
no food but your food, was given us
for our use, not our abuse. Cats do
kill rats and mice and they are affec-
tionate and true when their confidence
is won.

No organized cruelty should be urged
against the cat any more than against
birds, gunners or other enemies of the
birds.

RIVERDALE, MARCH 1.

Do Women Protect Cats?

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
The letter as to bird killing cats was
appropriate and to the point. It is very
likely owing to the women that cats
have the protection and favor shown
them. It is on that account, no doubt,
that it is so difficult to have laws passed
taxing cats.

The cat should go.
G. F. SCHENCKHOFF.
RUTHERFORD, N. J., March 1.

MR. ASQUITH.

A Statesman Who Looks at the Past
Before Plying with the Future.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
Mr. Asquith, the English statesman,
who has just had such a notable tri-
umph at the polls, is a man such as
the times call for—no visionary, ideal-
ist or doctrinaire, but a man, pre-
sently of common sense. But he is
one who knows that human nature
is eternally the same and that the only
sure guide to progress is the experience
of the past. All schemes of reform, how-
ever altruistic in purpose, which ignore
or contravene that which has been
sympathy from him.

As an example of this I may cite
his outspoken opposition to the national-
ization of the industries which he pro-
claimed, simply as a bureaucracy.
Liberal as he is and therefore depend-
ing on the popular vote, he was not
afraid to join issue with labor on the
question. Altogether he is as honest
and brave as he is intellectual.

New York, March 1.

Savings Stamps Not Liquid Assets.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
One of the best encouragements to thrift
in the War Savings Stamp idea. The
fact that it is not so popular as it should
be is no doubt due to the obvious ten-
day clause. People resent the idea
of giving ten days notice when they
want their money, and compare it with
the advantages of the postal savings
system, which latter permits of immedi-
ate withdrawal, without any red tape.

To make the War Savings Stamp the
most popular investment remove the
objection, the ten day clause.

ASTORIA, MARCH 1. I. P. JACOB.

Community School in Georgia.

Applying county has established its first
community school in the Maitland district,
consolidating the Lily Ross and Altamaha
schools. The average attendance is 525
for the three schools and it is thought that
it will be increased after the new school
is built. Five teachers will be employed.

DIP TENANTS PROFITEER?

Their Sins of the Past Blamed for the
Present Housing Shortage.

TO THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
It may sound strange, but it is never-
theless the fact that the renting situa-
tion of to-day is in part due to the
profiteering tenant who has been oper-
ating for some twelve years past. The
situation is an illustration of the old
saying of chickens come home to roost.
Many thousands of tenants in these
years demanded and secured free rent
from time to time, although they knew
that the rent was inadequate to the
owner on his investment. So far from
considering any justice in the matter,
they demanded excessive and frequent
redecorations and repairs which effec-
tually disposed of any small balance
which the landlord might accumulate.

Doubtless there are many such ten-
ants who under such circumstances
secured in the aggregate a fine year
of free rent. To cite a single actual
instance typical of many others I have
in mind a single tenant apartment house,
new when purchased and in a good lo-
cality, the net result of the ownership
of which is such that the owner could
have better afforded to have invested
his money on a 5 per cent. basis and
out of the return to have paid one-
quarter of the whole rent bill of all
thirty tenants for a ten year period in-
stead of having them in a building of
his own. Or, to put the matter in
another way, to have divided the in-
come from his securities and to have
donated one-half to his tenants during
the whole period of years.

It was the rapaciousness of the ten-
ant which cut off the building of apart-
ments prior to the war. The war in-
tensified the situation, but it did not
originate it, nor will its termination
end the trouble. Builders are not look-
ing for mortgage money nor will they
build until purchasers are to be found.
Prospective purchasers are not in the
least likely to enter the market under
existing circumstances while every pub-
lic officer and body from the Legislature
down to the local board of health and
slaughter against real estate owners.

The situation is not entirely due to
the tenant, for of late years there has
sprung up the self-appointed "uplifter"
who found time to push through the
Legislature a variety of laws hostile
to real estate owners. Moreover, it
was only too apparent that the inability
of real estate to be moved out of the
jurisdiction of the State of New York
in the lower court was brought by the
company to prevent the collection of the
tax from the employees who were re-
sidents of the State, while the tax was
paid by those who commuted to New York
City. Justice Pitney wrote the opinion and
made it clear that the decision invali-
dated only that section of the income tax
law affecting non-residents. The tax
levied is one per cent. on the gross in-
comes of the non-residents.

LEGISLATURE WILL
CORRECT DEFECTS

Prompt Action to Be Taken
on Income Tax.

Special to THE SUN AND NEW YORK HERALD:
ALBANY, March 1.—Prompt action will
be taken by the Legislature to correct
defects in the State income tax law as
indicated today by the Supreme Court
decision. Adversely ruling in fact had
been expected and the bill to amend the
law already is nearly completed. It will
be introduced soon and State officials
said collection of the tax as scheduled
would not be interrupted.

State Comptroller Travis gave out this
statement:

Legislation is now pending before
the State Legislature to remedy these
defects. In anticipation of a decision
as has been rendered to-day, holding
these provisions unconstitutional, non-
resident taxpayers have been granted
thirty days additional from March
15 in which to file their returns.

The State income tax is expected to
yield a revenue of about \$400,000, and
with the loss of the liquor revenue the
State would be in serious financial
situation if the entire law were held in-
valid. The estimated revenue from assess-
ing the incomes of non-residents is about
\$3,000,000.

GEN. BLISS TO GET REWARD.

Will Be Head of U. S. Soldiers